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ABSTRACT

New Mexico, while small, is a state of great diversity in terms of size, growth, and Hispanic concentration of population. Data from the 1980 census indicate New Mexico is the 37th largest state with slightly more than 1.3 million persons and is ninth among the states in percentage of population growth. Growth comes from two demographic sources: migration of people moving into an area and natural increase (more births than deaths over the decade). While New Mexico ranks first in percentage of Hispanic population, it ranks seventh in total Hispanic population. New Mexico counties with high proportions of Hispanic population are Mora, Guadalupe, San Miguel, Rio Arriba, Taos, and Santa Fe. Bernalillo, Dona Ana, San Juan, Santa Fe, and Valencia counties have the largest Hispanic population. Majority concentrations of Hispanics occur in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, and Espanola. Ten tables of data show the rank of: the 50 states and the District of Columbia by population size, growth, percentage of Hispanics, and Hispanic population size; New Mexico counties by population size, growth, and percentage and size of Hispanic population; and New Mexico cities by population size, and size and percentage of Hispanic population. (NQA)

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PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO
Size, Growth and Hispanic Population from the 1980 Census

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August 1982 Las Cruces, New Mexico

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PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO
Size, Growth and Hispanic Population from the 1980 Census

James D. Williams, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Objective and Purpose

Population data serve numerous and varied needs, the best known of which is planning for business and government. The objective of this report is to begin to make available to the agricultural community information from the 1980 Census of Population and Housing.

In the past, census information has been readily available in the state's larger libraries and sometimes through city and county governments. In 1980, however, most of the data will never appear in printed reports but rather will require the ability to access and process volumes of computer tape. To meet the information needs of those without access to computers, New Mexico State University has been designated a State Data Center Affiliate charged with the responsibility to make data available to the wide audience of interested persons.

This report is the first of a series planned to disseminate 1980 census information. The data for this report are from early published reports from the Bureau of the Census. Future reports will draw on the census tape series as they become available for New Mexico. The Bureau of the Census will continue to release information over the next several years and thus the complete set of 1980 census data will probably not exist until 1985. Special reports could continue to be released after that date. It is because of this multi-stage release program that several reports are planned rather than one "final" document.

While census data are released with the label "final", in reality revisions to the figures are made all during the census bureau's analysis and evaluation. Future reports will contain the necessary revisions which have been made to figures presented in earlier reports. In this report, recently revised total population figures are presented. Corrected totals for the Hispanic population were not finalized at press time. Generally, the revisions are quite small and will not substantially affect most uses.

Why We Have a Census[1]

Certainly, many people are simply curious. How many are we and what are we like? While we are a nation of curious people, such self-indulgence probably would not justify the $1 billion-plus cost of the 1980 United States Census of Population and Housing.

Establishing a count of the population for purposes of establishing representation in the House of Representatives was a high priority at the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires an enumeration of the population every ten years. But the founding fathers left the details of apportionment and redistricting to be worked out later. Later turned out to be the 1960s, when the U.S. Supreme Court finally ruled that federal and state legislative districts must be of equal population size, thus establishing the principle of "one person, one vote". As a result of its growth, and other states' declines, New Mexico gained a third Representative in the House.

Now, more than ever before, census data are used extensively at all levels of government and in the private sector. By the late 1970s, more than 100 federal programs allocated money to state and local governments on the basis of population data including detailed characteristics as well as total counts of people. The dollar amounts are staggering, and New Mexico shares these monies in such areas as Agricultural Research and Service, Community Development, Energy, Education, Law Enforcement Assistance, Defense, and Social Services (to name just a few of the federal program areas).

In the private sector, population data are used for planning and serve as a basis for marketing programs aimed at specific types of people. The census provides marketers with the ability to target promotions to where desired types of people live.

The 1970 census cost about $1 per person; the 1980 census cost about $4 per person. The $3 increase per person has, however, been analyzed by the Census Bureau. The first additional dollar is simply the cost of inflation. An additional 75 cents

[1] The material in this section is excerpted from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census '80: Continuing the Factfinder Tradition*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Issued January 1980.

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went to improving the ability to count every person, or minimizing the number who are missed. Another 50 cents went to improving the quality of the information obtained from people. New questions added another 25 cents. And, because we have seen an explosion in the number of households in the country since 1970, another 25 cent increase was needed to simply cover this growth. That leaves a final 25 cent addition, which covers new operational technology.

The census, of course, asked a lot of questions in its "long form", which went to about one in five households. In spite of our impressions, though, the reporting burden has declined steadily over the past century and today's questions and forms are relatively few and simple. The record for reporting burden was set in 1890, when 233 separate schedules covering 22 subjects asked a potential total of 13,161 questions.

In a country of more than 226 million people, the census can never hope for a 100 percent count. The 1970 undercount has been estimated nationally at 5.3 million people, or 2.5 percent. But, undercount varies by area and types of people so while satisfactory, overall, the undercount was large, for instance, on Indian Reservations.

The 1980 data suggest a better coverage this time. However, 1980 data also suggest that the 1970 undercount was greater than 2.5 percent. This problem does affect the use of New Mexico data. For instance, some of the apparent growth in the population of the state between 1970 and 1980 simply reflects a better count in 1980 than in 1970. An estimate of undercount in 1970 and 1980 for this state will not come until sophisticated analysis is completed.

NEW MEXICO IN NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Size and Growth

As of April 1, 1980, the official population of the United States was 226,504,825, an 11.4 percent increase from the 1970 population of 203,302,031. This corresponds to an increase of 23,202,794, or about 6,400 per day in the nation. Table 1 shows 1980 and 1970 population, and rank, for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

By 1970, due to its rapid growth, California edged out New York to lead the nation as the most populous state. In 1980, it is clear that California retains its number one position, with its lead on New York having increased substantially. New York remains number two.

Our neighboring state of Texas rose in the rankings from fourth in 1970 to third in 1980. With over 14 million inhabitants, Texas took over the third spot from Pennsylvania, which slipped into fourth place. Illinois rounds out the top five. Together, these five states account for almost 35 percent of the U.S. population.

New Mexico, in spite of its growth, remained the 37th largest state with slightly more than 1.3 million persons (1,302,981).

Table 2 ranks the states on percentage growth between 1970 and 1980. Percentage change is what most people notice, rather than absolute change. Thus, if Illinois had gained a million people, it would go relatively unnoticed in a state which had more than 11 million. But, if New Mexico had gained a million, our resulting growth of nearly 100 percent would have affected all of us and few would have failed to notice the ramifications of such rapid growth.

Rapid growth in the 1970s very much favored the South and the West, and thus many smaller population states. Figure 1 clearly reveals this phenomenon. Nevada ranks first with a 63.5 percent increase over the decade. That percentage figure represents an actual population increase of 310,446 people. Arizona, with over 50 percent increase, is the second-fastest growing state.

New Mexico ranks ninth among the states. Our 28.1 percent increase is more than double the national figure. Texas follows in tenth place with a 27.1 percent increase in the 1970s. Remember, however, that while we grew faster on a percentage change basis, our level of growth only required 285,926 new people; in Texas the gain was more than 3 million.

Only three areas experienced decline in the 1970s and all are on the East Coast. Together,

Fig. 1. Relatively Rapidly Growing States

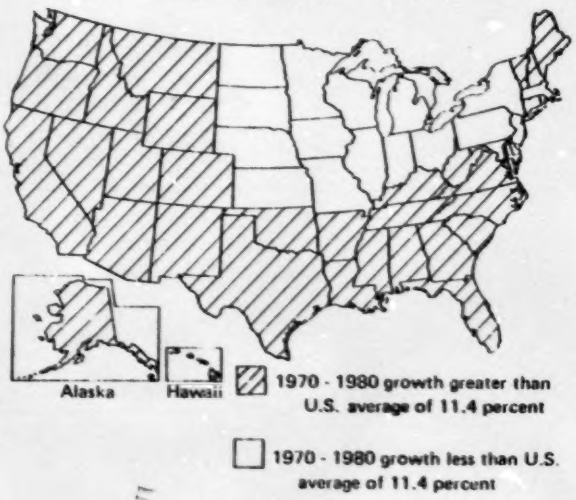
Alaska
Hawaii
1970 - 1980 growth greater than U.S. average of 11.4 percent
1970 - 1980 growth less than U.S. average of 11.4 percent

Table 1. States by population size

State	1980 Population	1970 Population	1980 Rank	1970 Rank
California	23,668,562	19,971,069	1	1
New York	17,557,288	18,241,391	2	2
Texas	14,228,383	11,198,655	3	4
Pennsylvania	11,866,728	11,800,766	4	3
Illinois	11,418,461	11,110,285	5	5
Ohio	10,797,419	10,657,423	6	6
Florida	9,739,992	6,791,418	7	9
Michigan	9,258,344	8,881,826	8	7
New Jersey	7,364,158	7,171,112	9	8
North Carolina	5,874,429	5,084,441	10	12
Massachusetts	5,737,037	5,689,170	11	10
Indiana	5,490,179	5,195,392	12	11
Georgia	5,464,265	4,587,930	13	15
Virginia	5,346,279	4,651,448	14	14
Missouri	4,917,444	4,677,623	15	13
Wisconsin	4,705,335	4,417,821	16	16
Tennessee	4,590,750	3,926,018	17	17
Maryland	4,216,446	3,923,897	18	18
Louisiana	4,203,972	3,644,637	19	20
Washington	4,130,163	3,413,244	20	22
Minnesota	4,077,148	3,806,103	21	19
Alabama	3,890,061	3,444,354	22	21
Kentucky	3,661,433	3,220,711	23	23
South Carolina	3,119,208	2,590,713	24	26
Connecticut	3,107,576	3,032,217	25	24
Oklahoma	3,025,266	2,559,463	26	27
Iowa	2,913,387	2,825,368	27	25
Colorado	2,888,834	2,209,596	28	30
Arizona	2,717,866	1,775,399	29	33
Oregon	2,632,663	2,091,533	30	31
Mississippi	2,520,638	2,216,994	31	29
Kansas	2,363,208	2,249,071	32	28
Arkansas	2,285,513	1,923,322	33	32
West Virginia	1,949,644	1,744,237	34	34
Nebraska	1,570,006	1,485,333	35	35
Utah	1,461,037	1,059,273	36	36
NEW MEXICO	1,302,981	1,017,055	37	37
Maine	1,124,660	993,722	38	38
Hawaii	965,000	769,913	39	40
Rhode Island	947,154	949,723	40	39
Idaho	943,935	713,015	41	43
New Hampshire	920,610	737,681	42	42
Nevada	799,184	488,738	43	48
Montana	786,690	694,409	44	44
South Dakota	690,178	666,257	45	45
North Dakota	652,695	617,792	46	46
District of Columbia	637,651	756,668	47	41
Delaware	595,225	548,104	48	47
Vermont	511,456	444,732	49	49
Wyoming	470,816	332,416	50	50
Alaska	400,481	302,583	51	51

Source: Population size, 1970 and 1980, and percent change for states are from a xeroxed document of final apportionment counts provided through the state Data Center program and the Center for Business Research and Services at New Mexico State University. The census bureau is continually revising slightly the totals for several states. The New Mexico total is a recently revised figure.

Table 2. States by percentage growth, 1970 to 1980

State	Percent Change	Absolute Change
Nevada	63.5	310,446
Arizona	53.1	942,467
Florida	43.4	2,948,574
Wyoming	41.6	138,400
Utah	37.9	401,764
Idaho	32.4	230,920
Alaska	32.4	97,898
Colorado	30.7	679,238
NEW MEXICO	28.1	285,926
Texas	27.1	3,029,728
Oregon	25.9	541,130
Hawaii	25.3	195,087
New Hampshire	24.8	182,929
Washington	21.0	716,919
South Carolina	20.4	528,495
Georgia	19.1	876,335
Arkansas	18.8	362,191
California	18.5	3,697,493
Oklahoma	18.2	465,803
Tennessee	16.9	664,732
North Carolina	15.5	790,018
Louisiana	15.3	559,335
Vermont	15.0	66,724
Virginia	14.9	694,831
Mississippi	13.7	303,644
Kentucky	13.7	440,722
Montana	13.3	92,281
Maine	13.2	130,938
Alabama	12.9	445,707
West Virginia	11.8	205,407
Delaware	8.6	47,121
Maryland	7.5	292,549
Minnesota	7.1	271,045
Wisconsin	6.5	287,514
Indiana	5.7	294,787
Nebraska	5.7	84,673
North Dakota	5.6	34,903
Kansas	5.1	114,137
Missouri	5.1	239,821
Michigan	4.2	376,518
South Dakota	3.6	23,921
Iowa	3.1	88,019
Illinois	2.8	308,176
New Jersey	2.7	193,046
Connecticut	2.5	75,359
Ohio	1.3	139,996
Massachusetts	.8	47,867
Pennsylvania	.6	65,962
Rhode Island	-0.3	-2,569
New York	-3.8	-684,103
District of Columbia	-15.7	-119,017

Source: Population size, 1970 and 1980, and percent change for states are from a xeroxed document of final apportionment counts provided through the state Data Center program and the Center for Business Research and Services at New Mexico State University. The New Mexico totals and percent change are revised from early printed reports.

Rhode Island, New York and the District of Columbia lost more than 800,000 people.

Growth comes from two demographic sources (aside from counting errors). The one most people think of is migration, where more people are moving into an area than are leaving an area. But, the other source of growth, natural increase, is often quite important. Natural increase results from "growth from within", whereby there are more births than deaths over the decade. Final figures are not yet available for New Mexico, but a rough guide is a 50-50 split between natural increase and migration. Thus, about half of our growth was from within, and half from without.

Hispanic Population

Persons of Hispanic origin and descent are a rapidly growing ethnic sector of the United States. But, Hispanic means different things in different parts of the country. In New York, Hispanic includes mostly Puerto Ricans and Cubans. Likewise, in Florida, Cubans account for many Hispanics. Early census reports do not allow a further breakdown on the Hispanic population.

New Mexico ranks first in percentage of the population which identifies itself as having Spanish origins. These rankings are found in table 3. Among the rest of the top five, which includes Texas, California, Arizona and Colorado, all have more than 10 percent of the population which identifies itself as Hispanic or Spanish in origin or descent.

Data for 1970 on Hispanics are not included in this report, and for a good reason. In 1970, the census did not ask about Spanish heritage directly, and the questions used were only given to a random sample. Our 1970 data have been a source of aggravation throughout the decade. Thus, in 1980, the census asked everyone a separate question specifically about Spanish origin. The result is that 1980 data are fairly good while 1970 data were quite poor. This makes a comparison very difficult.

While New Mexico has a high Hispanic proportion, it ranks seventh in total Hispanic population, as shown in table 4. With 476,089 Hispanics, New Mexico is far behind California, which has over 4.5 million Hispanics. Texas is second behind California, with almost 3 million Hispanics. San Antonio alone has more Hispanics than live in the entire state of New Mexico. Among the 50 largest American metropolitan areas in 1980, four (in addition to San Antonio) have more Hispanics than live in New Mexico. They are: New York, Los Angeles-Long Beach: Chicago; and Miami.

Table 3. States by percentage of hispanics, 1980

State	Percent Hispanic
NEW MEXICO	36.6
Texas	20.9
California	19.2
Arizona	16.2
Colorado	11.7
New York	9.4
Florida	8.8
Minnesota	7.9
Hawaii	7.4
Nevada	6.7
New Jersey	5.7
Illinois	5.6
Wyoming	5.2
Utah	4.1
Connecticut	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Washington	2.9
District of Columbia	2.8
Kansas	2.7
Oregon	2.5
Massachusetts	2.5
Louisiana	2.4
Alaska	2.4
Rhode Island	2.1
Oklahoma	1.9
Nebraska	1.8
Michigan	1.8
Delaware	1.[illegible]
Indiana	1.[illegible]
Maryland	1.5
Virginia	1.5
Pennsylvania	1.3
Montana	1.3
Wisconsin	1.3
Georgia	1.1
Ohio	1.1
Missouri	1.1
South Carolina	1.1
Mississippi	0.98
North Carolina	0.96
Iowa	0.87
Alabama	0.85
Arkansas	0.78
Kentucky	0.75
Tennessee	0.74
West Virginia	0.65
Vermont	0.65
New Hampshire	0.61
North Dakota	0.59
South Dakota	0.58
Maine	0.45

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Supplementary Reports Series, PC80-S1-1, Age, Sex, Race and Spanish Origin of the Population by Regions, Divisions and States: 1980, Issued May 1981.

Table 4. States by Hispanic population size, 1980

State	Hispanic Population
California	4,543,770
Texas	2,985,643
New York	1,659,245
Florida	859,898
Illinois	635,525
New Jersey	491,867
NEW MEXICO	476,089
Arizona	440,915
Colorado	339,300
Michigan	162,388
Pennsylvania	154,004
Massachusetts	141,043
Connecticut	124,499
Washington	119,988
Ohio	119,880
Louisiana	99,105
Indiana	87,020
Virginia	79,873
Hawaii	71,479
Oregon	66,833
Maryland	64,740
Kansas	63,333
Wisconsin	62,981
Georgia	61,261
Utah	60,302
Oklahoma	57,413
North Carolina	56,607
Nevada	53,786
Missouri	51,667
Idaho	36,615
Tennessee	34,081
South Carolina	33,414
Alabama	33,100
Minnesota	32,124
Nebraska	28,020
Kentucky	27,403
Iowa	25,536
Mississippi	24,731
Wyoming	24,499
Rhode Island	19,707
Arkansas	17,873
District of Columbia	17,652
West Virginia	12,707
Montana	9,974
Delaware	9,671
Alaska	9,497
New Hampshire	5,587
Maine	5,005
South Dakota	4,028
North Dakota	3,903
Vermont	3,304

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Supplementary Reports Series, PC80-S1-1, Age, Sex, Race and Spanish Origin of the Population by Regions, Divisions and States: 1980, issued May 1981.

NEW MEXICO COUNTIES AND CITIES

Size and Growth

With respect to population size, New Mexico counties are quite variable, ranging from Bernalillo with 419,700 in 1980 to Harding with 1090 persons. Population sizes and rankings are presented in table 5 for New Mexico counties. The new county, Cibola, is not yet recognized in census publications: Valencia County data remain intact as they were in 1970. Without splitting Cibola from Valencia, it appears that Valencia would have moved from tenth to fifth place in the size rankings.

Dona Ana County remained the state's second largest, with more than 96,000 residents. San Juan County edged out Santa Fe to take over third place.

At the other end of the size spectrum, our five counties with the smallest populations in 1980

Table 5. New Mexico counties by population size

County	1980 Population	1970 Population	1980 Rank	1970 Rank
Bernalillo	419,700	315,774	1	1
Dona Ana	96,340	69,773	2	2
San Juan	81,433	52,517	3	4
Santa Fe	75,360	54,774	4	3
Valencia	61,115	40,576	5	10
McKinley	56,356	43,208	6	7
Lea	55,993	49,554	7	5
Chaves	51,103	43,335	8	6
Eddy	47,855	41,119	9	8
Otero	44,665	41,097	10	9
Curry	42,019	39,517	11	11
Sandoval	34,799	17,492	12	16
Rio Arriba	29,282	25,170	13	12
Grant	26,204	22,030	14	13
San Miguel	22,751	21,951	15	14
Taos	19,456	17,516	16	15
Los Alamos	17,599	15,198	17	18
Roosevelt	15,695	16,479	18	17
Luna	15,585	11,706	19	20
Colfax	13,667	12,170	20	19
Socorro	12,566	9,763	21	22
Lincoln	10,997	7,560	22	23
Quay	10,577	10,903	23	21
Sierra	8,454	7,189	24	24
Torrance	7,491	5,290	25	25
Hidalgo	6,049	4,734	26	28
Union	4,725	4,925	27	27
Guadalupe	4,496	4,969	28	26
Mora	4,205	4,673	29	29
Catron	2,720	2,198	30	31
DeBaca	2,454	2,547	31	30
Harding	1,090	1,348	32	32

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, PC 80-1-A33, Characteristics of the Population, Volume 1, Chapter A, "Number of Inhabitants," Part 33, New Mexico, issued January, 1982.

were Harding, then DeBaca, Catron, Mora and Guadalupe.

Growth, too, is highly variable in New Mexico. The change between 1970 and 1980 ranged from almost 100 percent in Sandoval County, to -19.1 percent in Harding County. Overall, 25 counties grew while 7 counties experienced population decline. Growth data are presented in table 6.

Figure 2 shows those counties which grew in the 1970s at a rate equal to or higher than the overall state rate of 28.1 percent. Thus, it is a map of "relatively rapid growth counties." Twelve counties are included. Whether due to a better count, natural increase, or migration, (which must await further data and analysis to consider) growth counties tend to cluster into a geographic pattern. Basically, our most rapidly growing counties are found in the northwest and southwest corners of the state, and in the central portion of the state.

The Bureau of the Census has also released data for incorporated cities and towns in New Mexico. The boundaries for these data are the legal city limits as of 1980. Table 7 shows the 20 largest cities in the state ranked from largest to smallest in 1980.

Albuquerque retained a sizable lead on all other cities in New Mexico. With almost seven times the population of the next largest city, and with rapid growth, Albuquerque dominates New Mexico cities and will for some time to come. Santa Fe ranked second in 1980, while Las Cruces ranked third. Roswell, with almost 40,000 people, and Farmington with 31,222 round out the top five.

A comparison of growth percentages in cities and growth percentages in counties provides a basis for assessing whether growth has occurred in the cities, or in the more countryside or small urban locations. Until rural and urban data are released, this is the best we can do.

In Albuquerque, for instance, the city growth rate was 35.7 percent while for the county overall, it was 32.9 percent. Since the city rate is higher than the county rate, we know that growth within Albuquerque has been more rapid than in the surrounding county territory. In contrast, Las Cruces shows the opposite. With city growth of 19.1 percent and county growth of 38.1 percent

Fig. 2. Relatively Rapidly Growing Counties

Table 6. New Mexico counties by population growth

County	Percent Change 1970 to 1980	Absolute Change 1970 to 1980
Sandoval	98.9	17,307
San Juan	55.1	28,916
Valencia	50.6	20,539
Lincoln	45.5	3,437
Torrance	41.6	2,201
Dona Ana	38.1	26,567
Santa Fe	37.6	20,586
Luna	33.1	3,879
Bernalillo	32.9	103,926
McKinley	30.6	13,148
Socorro	28.7	2,803
Hidalgo	27.8	1,315
Catron	23.7	522
Grant	18.9	4,174
Chaves	17.9	7,768
Sierra	17.6	1,265
Eddy	16.4	6,736
Rio Arriba	16.3	4,112
Los Alamos	15.8	2,401
Lea	13.0	6,439
Colfax	12.3	1,497
Taos	11.1	1,940
Otero	8.7	3,568
Curry	6.3	2,502
San Miguel	3.6	800
Quay	-3.0	-326
DeBaca	-3.7	-93
Union	-4.1	-200
Roosevelt	-4.8	-784
Guadalupe	-9.5	-473
Mora	-10.0	-468
Harding	-19.1	-258

Source: See table 5

Table 7. The 20 largest New Mexico cities (incorporated) by 1980 population size

	1980 Population	1970 Population	Absolute change 1970 to 1980	Percent change 1970 to 1980
Albuquerque	331,767	244,501	87,266	35.7
Santa Fe	48,953	41,167	7,786	18.9
Las Cruces	45,086	37,857	7,229	19.1
Roswell	39,676	33,908	5,768	17.0
Farmington	31,222	21,979	9,243	42.1
Clovis	31,194	28,495	2,699	9.5
Hobbs	29,153	26,025	3,128	12.0
Carlsbad	25,496	21,297	4,199	19.7
Alamogordo	24,024	23,035	989	4.3
Gallup	18,161	14,596	3,565	24.4
Las Vegas[1]	14,322	7,528	6,794	90.2
Grants	11,439	8,768	2,671	30.5
Artesia	10,385	10,315	70	0.7
Deming	9,964	8,343	1,621	19.4
Portales	9,940	10,554	-614	-5.8
Silver City	9,887	8,557	1,330	15.5
Lovington	9,727	8,915	812	9.1
Raton	8,225	6,962	1,263	18.1
Socorro	7,175	5,849	1,324	22.6
Espanola	6,803	4,528	2,275	50.2

[1] The population of East Las Vegas was 7,528 in 1970; that of West Las Vegas was 6,307 in the same year. Thus, the combined population of the two municipalities was 13,835 when they were consolidated March 15, 1970. Therefore, the 90.2 percent change is an artifact of the consolidation. The absolute growth of the combined community was 487 from 1970 to 1980. The change was 3.5 percent.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census, County and City Data Book 1972, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Government Printing Office, Table B-2, p. 888.

See table 5

we see that rapid growth has really been taking place in the area around the city. Much of this growth is suburbanization of both Las Cruces and El Paso, Texas. Likewise, Santa Fe shows considerable growth outside the city limits.

Hispanic Population by County

While, overall, the state is about 37 (36.6) percent Hispanic, eight counties are more than one-half Hispanic while seven counties are less than one-fourth Hispanic. Again, New Mexico reveals a variable demographic landscape. Table 8 arrays counties with respect to the percentage of the total population which is Hispanic in 1980.

Counties with high proportions of Hispanic population are in the north-central portion of the state and include Mora, Guadalupe, San Miguel, Rio Arriba, Taos and Santa Fe counties.

But, if one asks, "where do Hispanics in New Mexico live?", a rather different perspective emerges from data on absolute size, given in table 9. Bernalillo County, with more than 150,000 Hispanics, is a concentration three times larger than the next largest Hispanic concentration, which is located in Dona Ana County. Very small Hispanic populations, under 1000, are located in Catron, De Baca and Harding counties.

The final table, table 10, yields Hispanic population information for the 20 largest cities in New Mexico. The cities are ranked by size of total population.

Majority concentrations of Hispanics occur in 7 of the 20 largest New Mexico cities. The "most Hispanic" large town is Las Vegas, with 84.4 percent and 12,081 Hispanics. Espanola too is very Hispanic, with 80 percent. The "least Hispanic" towns are Farmington and Hobbs, each with less than 20 percent Hispanic.

With each of the indicators in this report, we see that New Mexico, while small, is a state of great diversity in terms of size, growth, and Hispanic concentration of population.

Table 8. New Mexico counties ranked by the percentage of the population which is Hispanic

County	Percent Hispanic, 1980
Mora	86.6
Guadalupe	82.7
San Miguel	81.4
Rio Arriba	74.4
Taos	69.1
Santa Fe	55.6
Dona Ana	52.1
Grant	51.3
Colfax	47.5
Hidalgo	47.1
Socorro	45.3
Harding	44.3
Valencia	44.1
Torrance	41.1
Luna	39.6
Bernalillo	36.8
Quay	35.5
Union	31.2
DeBaca	30.9
Eddy	30.7
Chaves	30.6
Catron	28.7
Sandoval	27.5
Lincoln	26.6
Sierra	25.3
Otero	21.7
Roosevelt	21.5
Lea	21.3
Curry	19.5
McKinley	13.6
San Juan	11.8
Los Alamos	11.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary Tape File 1A, provided through the State Data Center Affiliate at NMSU.

Table 9. New Mexico counties ranked by the size of the Hispanic population

County	1980 Hispanic Population
Bernalillo	154,620
Dona Ana	50,204
Santa Fe	41,865
Valencia	26,861
Rio Arriba	21,786
San Miguel	18,524
Chaves	15,622
Eddy	14,707
Grant	13,452
Taos	13,442
Lea	11,900
Otero	9,713
San Juan	9,602
Sandoval	9,580
Curry	8,203
McKinley	7,638
Colfax	6,481
Luna	6,164
Socorro	5,873
Quay	3,753
Guadalupe	3,716
Mora	3,640
Roosevelt	3,378
Torrance	3,076
Lincoln	2,927
Hidalgo	2,849
Sierra	2,142
Los Alamos	2,022
Union	1,476
Catron	780
DeBaca	759
Harding	483

Source: See table 8

Table 10. Hispanic population size and percent hispanic for the 20 largest New Mexico cities (incorporated)

City	Hispanic Population	Percent Hispanic
	1980	
(In order of Hispanic total population)		
Albuquerque	112,084	33.8
Santa Fe	26,872	55.0
Las Cruces	20,498	45.5
Las Vegas	12,081	84.4
Roswell	11,692	29.5
Carlsbad	7,391	29.0
Clovis	7,078	22.7
Gallup	6,610	36.4
Grants	5,908	51.6
Alamogordo	5,758	24.0
Hobbs	5,658	19.6
Espanola	5,441	80.0
Silver City	5,191	52.5
Deming	5,000	50.2
Farmington	4,429	14.4
Raton	4,136	50.3
Socorro	3,656	48.3
Artesia	3,559	34.3
Lovington	3156	32.4
Portales	2,873	26.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Advance Report Series, PHC 80-V-33, Final Population and Housing Unit Counts, issued March 1981.